



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1996

No. 32

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 1996, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1996

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THUMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Divine Sovereign of this land, and Lord of our lives, You have blessed us in each period of our Nation's history with great leaders who trust in You and seek Your guidance. You have told us in the Scriptures that, "Righteousness exalts a Nation"—Proverbs 14:34; and "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice"—Proverbs 29:2. We thank You for all the women and men of both parties who have been called by You to lead our Nation here in this Senate. Each one is here by Your sovereign appointment to glorify You by seeking to know and do Your will.

Today we thank You for STROM THURMOND and the 42 years of faithful service here in the Senate. At this special time of recognition of his outstanding record of service to You and our Nation, we praise You for his leadership, wisdom, and strength. You have blessed him to be a blessing to his beloved South Carolina and to the Nation as a whole. We cherish our friendship with him and admire his patriotism. And now we press on to the work of this day seeking to glorify You in all we say and do. In Your holy name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the exception of Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska who has 15 minutes under his control.

At 1 p.m. today, the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 3019, the continuing resolution appropriations bill. No rollcall votes will occur during today's session. However, amendments are expected to be offered today during the consideration of the bill. Senators should be reminded that there will be at least two rollcall votes beginning at 2:15 tomorrow afternoon. The first vote will be on invoking cloture on the D.C. appropriations conference report, to be followed by a vote on invoking cloture on the motion to proceed to the White-water resolution.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. McCONNELL). There will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for 10 minutes each. The Senator from Alaska is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, good morning.

CALIFORNIA LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE FACILITY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, last Thursday, as chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I introduced legislation,

along with my colleague, Senator JOHNSTON, the ranking member of that committee, to sell 1,000 acres of Federal excess land out in a California desert at a fair market value in order that Californians may finally begin to work for their low-level radioactive waste facility at a place called Ward Valley.

This is a step that the Governor of California, Gov. Pete Wilson, had asked us to take after the State of California has suffered from some 2 years of frustration at the hands of the Department of Interior.

The measure that Senator JOHNSTON and I have introduced to end this stalemate is virtually identical to the language the Senate previously agreed to in the reconciliation bill conference report. But there is an important difference, Mr. President. That important difference is that we want to remove the latest excuse of the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Babbitt, who has voiced refusal to convey that land, and the rationale for that is pretty hard to explain at this time. Perhaps we will have some justification from the Secretary, but we certainly do not have it now.

What we have done is we have added an additional condition, and that is that California must provide its written comment and commitment to carry out additional environmental monitoring and protection measures based on

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S1663